

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	Case No. 3:20-CV-20
)	
v.)	Judges _____
)	
\$34,727.93 U.S. CURRENCY,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

Comes now the plaintiff, United States of America, by and through its attorneys, Douglas J. Overbey, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Tennessee, and Gretchen Mohr, Assistant United States Attorney, and brings this complaint and alleges as follows in accordance with Rule G(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Supplemental Rules for Admiralty or Maritime Claims and Asset Forfeiture Actions:

1. In this *in rem* civil action, the United States of America seeks forfeiture of \$34,727.93 in U.S. currency (hereinafter “defendant property”).

Case 3:20-cv-00020 Document 1 Filed 01/10/20 Page 1 of 5 PageID #: 1

and any property, real or personal, which constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1957.

THE DEFENDANT *IN REM*

3. The defendant property is \$34,727.93 in U.S. currency, which was seized by Tennessee Valley Authority-Office of Inspector General (“TVA-OIG”) on or about August 15, 2019.

4. Custody of the defendant property was transferred to the United States Marshals Service. The defendant property is currently on deposit in an account under the control of the United States Marshals Service.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

5. Plaintiff brings this action *in rem* in its own right to forfeit and condemn the defendant property. This Court has jurisdiction over an action commenced by the United States under 28 U.S.C. § 1345, and over an action for forfeiture under 28 U.S.C. § 1355(a).

6. This Court has *in rem* jurisdiction over the defendant property pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1355(b)(1)(A) because the acts or omissions giving rise to the forfeiture of the defendant property occurred in this district. Upon the filing of this complaint, the plaintiff requests that the Clerk issue an Arrest Warrant *In Rem* pursuant to Supplemental Rule G(3)(b)(i). The plaintiff will execute the warrant upon the defendant property pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1355(d) and Supplemental Rule G(3)(c).

7. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1355(b)(1)(A), because the acts or omissions giving rise to the forfeiture occurred in this district, and pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1395(b) because the property is located in this district.

BASIS FOR FORFEITURE

8. The United States of America seeks forfeiture of the defendant property pursuant 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) for violations of 18 U.S.C. § 1343 and 18 U.S.C. §§ 981(a)(1)(A) and 981(a)(1)(C) for violations of 18 U.S.C. § 1957.

9. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(f), all right, title and interest in the defendant property became vested in the United States at the time of the acts giving rise to the forfeiture.

FACTS

10. As set forth in detail in the Affidavit of Special Agent, Kyle Cox, Tennessee Valley Authority, Office of the Inspector General, the Government's investigation has determined that Robert N. Saunders and other parties unknown have committed violations of federal law including conspiracy to commit wire fraud and money laundering and the defendant property was property derived from proceeds traceable to violations of 18 U.S.C. § 1343 and proceeds traceable to and involved in violations of 18 U.S.C. § 1957.

CLAIM FOR RELIEF

11. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each and every allegation set forth in paragraphs 1 through 10 above. The defendant property constitutes money derived from proceeds of wire fraud and money laundering violations of 18 U.S.C. § 1343 and 1957. The defendant property is subject to forfeiture to the United States in accordance with 18 U.S.C. §§ 981(a)(1)(A) and 981(a)(1)(C).

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the United States of America prays that:

(1) The Clerk issue a Warrant for Arrest *In Rem* for the defendant property;

(2) The defendant property be condemned and forfeited to the United States of America in accordance with the provisions of law;

(3) Notice of this action be given to all persons known or thought to have an interest in, or right against the defendant property; and

(4) Plaintiff be awarded its costs in this action and for such other necessary and equitable relief as this Court deems proper.

Respectfully submitted,

J. DOUGLAS OVERBEY
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

By: *s/Gretchen Mohr*
GRETCHEN MOHR
NY Bar No. 5064704
Assistant United States Attorney
800 Market Street, Ste. 211
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902
(865) 545-4167
gretchen.mohr@usdoj.gov

VERIFICATION

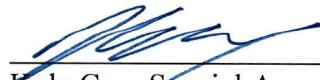
I, Kyle Cox, Special Agent with Tennessee Valley Authority, Office of the Inspector General, hereby verify and declare under penalty of perjury as provided by 28 U.S.C. § 1746, the following:

That I have read the foregoing Verified Complaint *In Rem* and know the contents thereof, and that the matters contained in the Verified Complaint *In Rem* and in the accompanying Affidavit are true to my own knowledge, except that those matters herein stated to be alleged on information and belief and as to those matters I believe them to be true.

The sources of my knowledge and information and the grounds of my belief are from information gathered by law enforcement officers, as well as my investigation of this case with the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority Safety Department.

I hereby verify and declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 8th day of January 2020.



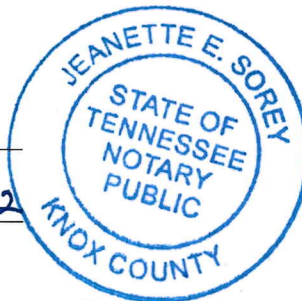
Kyle Cox, Special Agent
Tennessee Valley Authority
Office of the Inspector General

Sworn to and subscribed to before me
this 8th day of January, 2020.



Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 10/30/2022



CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

United States of America

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff _____
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

Gretchen Mohr, AUSA, 800 Market Street, Ste. 211
Knoxville, TN 37902, (865) 545-4167

DEFENDANTS

\$34,727.93 U.S. CURRENCY

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant **Macon**
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF
THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☒ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff
- ☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant
- ☐ 3 Federal Question
(U.S. Government Not a Party)
- ☐ 4 Diversity
(Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

- | | PTF | DEF | | PTF | DEF |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Citizen of This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Citizen of Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Foreign Nation | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Med. Malpractice	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 690 Other LABOR <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act IMMIGRATION <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Habeas Corpus - Alien Detainee (Prisoner Petition) <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes

V. ORIGIN

(Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☒ 1 Original Proceeding
- ☐ 2 Removed from State Court
- ☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court
- ☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened
- ☐ 5 Transferred from another district (specify)
- ☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):

Forfeiture pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 981(a)(1)(A) and 981(a)(1)(C)

Brief description of cause:

Proceeds of violations of 18 U.S.C. § 1343 and property involved in violations of 18 U.S.C. § 1957

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23

DEMAND \$

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:

JURY DEMAND: ☐ Yes ☒ No**VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY**

(See instructions):

JUDGE

DOCKET NUMBER

DATE

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

01/10/2020

s/Gretchen Mohr

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT #

AMOUNT

APPLYING IFP

JUDGE

MAG. JUDGE

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

\$34,727.93 U.S. CURRENCY

Defendant.

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)
)
)
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Case No. 3:20-CV-20

Judges _____

WARRANT OF ARREST *IN REM*

TO: The United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Tennessee and/or any other United States officer or employee, someone under contract with the United States, or someone specially appointed by the court.

The United States, by and through its United States Attorney, respectfully requests that the Clerk of the Court for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee issue a Warrant of Arrest *in Rem* pursuant to Rule G(3)(b)(i) of the Supplemental Rules for Admiralty and Maritime Claims and Asset Forfeiture Actions. In support of its application, the United States of America states as follows:

On January 10, 2020 the United States filed a Verified Complaint *in Rem* in the above-referenced case, which alleges that the defendant property is subject to forfeiture to the United States pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 981(a)(1)(A) and 981(a)(1)(C) in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1343 and 1957. The defendant property is \$34,727.93 in U.S. currency (hereinafter “defendant property”).

The defendant property is currently in the possession of the United States. In these circumstances, the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Supplemental Rules for Admiralty or

Maritime Claims and Asset Forfeiture Actions, Rule G(3)(b)(i) directs the Clerk of the Court to issue a warrant to arrest the property if it is in the government's possession, custody or control.

Supplemental Rule G(3)(c)(i) provides that the Warrant of Arrest *In Rem* must be delivered to a person or organization authorized to execute it who may be a marshal or any other United States officer or employee, someone under contract with the United States, or someone specially appointed by the court for that purpose.

YOU ARE, THEREFORE, HEREBY COMMANDED to arrest the defendant property as soon as practicable by serving a copy of this warrant on the custodian in whose possession, custody or control the property are presently found, and to use whatever means may be appropriate to protect and maintain it in your custody until further order of this Court.

YOU ARE FURTHER COMMANDED, promptly after execution of this process, to file the same in this Court with your return thereon, identifying the individuals upon who copies were served and the manner employed.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, Clerk of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee, have caused the foregoing Warrant of Arrest *In Rem* to be issued pursuant to the authority of the Supplemental Rule G(3)(b)(i) and the applicable laws of the United States and have hereunto affixed the seal of the Court at Knoxville, Tennessee, this _____ day of _____, 2020.

John Medearis
Clerk of the Court
United States District Court

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

RETURN OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I executed this warrant by serving _____ by
_____ on the _____ day of _____, 2020.

United States Deputy Marshal
United States Marshals Service